

# ACORN



## **The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario**

**A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.**

<b>President:</b>	<b>W. Moffet</b>
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	<b>Peter John Stokes</b>
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<b>3rd Vice-President:</b>	<b>P. Rosebrugh</b>
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### **A C O R N V I - 1**

**SPRING 1981**

### **The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter**

#### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

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<b>Contributing Editor:</b>	<b>Peter John Stokes</b>

#### **The Cover**

##### **The Smith-Russell Block c. 1850 34 - 46 Walton Street, Port Hope, Ontario**

The cover of this issue shows the restored front to the Smith-Russell Block gutted by fire in late May of last year. The disaster destroyed some of the structure and seriously weakened that remaining including brick dividing walls, supporting floors and roof. The three ground floor tenants had to be accommodated and enough demand had been generated in previous and continuing renovations to justify a second floor. But the ugly possibility of total demolition and a modern two storey replacement loomed large in practical terms.

(continued on page 15)

## EDITORIAL

### **Parks, Parking Spaces, and the Health of Our Nation**

We again resort to cribbing someone else's words. As long as these repetitions are read, we feel we can be pardoned.

The magazine, *Canadian Heritage*, put out by the Heritage Canada Foundation, contains useful and interesting information on a variety of subjects. In an article on Barbara Ward, Baroness Jackson of Lodsworth, it mentions that roads and parking spaces make up over half of Dallas and Los Angeles, and over a third of Washington, D.C. and New York City.

Interesting fact.

But listen to this: the loss of taxable space was one element in New York's near bankruptcy! That is a very sobering thought.

Parks also bring in no tax money, but they beautify the town, and in fact, add to the **mental and physical health of our citizens.**

When we think of giving up a part of our town park for parking space, we should take a moment to reflect on the philosophy of Frederick Law Olmstead, who planned the Buffalo parks system, begun over a hundred years ago. His many outstanding landscape projects included Central Park in New York City, Mount Royal Park in Montreal, the Boston parks system, and the Chicago World's Fair. Central to his philosophy was his concern for the growth of nineteenth-century North American cities, which too often resulted in the eclipse of natural landscape by the unnaturalness of the urban grid. For Olmstead, public parks were necessary to meet not only social requirements but also more abstract spiritual needs. **The balance between urban and natural environments could determine the health of a nation.**

Balance is what is needed: balance in apportioning out the space that we have left.

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In our last report, we outlined the preparation of a new brochure, to replace the red folder printed before the growth of the Conservancy into its present form of regional branches. I am pleased to report that the brochure is almost ready for printing and that we have received a Wintario Grant from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation which will cover 75% of the cost of preparing, printing and distributing the brochure.

The brochure will illustrate a number of styles of architecture and types of buildings, typical to Ontario, using photos supplied by the Branches. In addition, we hope that each branch will contribute the text for an insertion which can be used to encourage new memberships in the branch.

As a further incentive to new members, an additional insertion will be printed which will outline a new type of membership — an associate membership. This will provide an opportunity for those who wish to express support for our efforts without actively participating, to contribute an associate fee and to receive *Acorn* regularly.

Our application for a grant to assist in the publication of the *Newburgh Monograph* has not yet been approved, but the work of preparing the study for printing is going forward under the able direction of Peter Stokes assisted by Tom Cruickshank and Wentworth Walker.

We note that Harrison Hall in Chatham appears to be doomed — a particularly glaring example of one branch of our government apparently funding the destruction of a building regarded by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation as well worth preserving. A number of avenues were open which would have enabled the City to permit the retention and rehabilitation of the building. These have been ignored because, according to Mayor Curtis Carter, "We weren't about to jeopardize the project for any reason". The dollar — despite its decline in value — is still "almighty" in many places.

## NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST from the Branches

### PORT HOPE

#### The Russell Building

The Gary Russell Building, Walton Street, Port Hope, is the prime example of what a Conservancy can do. Guttled by fire in May 1980, the three storey 19th century building seemed doomed.

The Conservancy went into action to save it, but time was running out.

On a bright spring morning in the May of last year a giant wrecking crane trundled down Walton Street and moved into position beside the damaged building. The huge iron demolition ball was raised menacingly and swung slowly ready to strike.

The street had been cleared of traffic; many citizens stood in quiet groups watching; it was strangely silent. These Port Hopers remembered only too well the crashing down of bricks that attended the demolition of their Fire Hall after the recent flood.

The wrecking crew were ready — waiting for the final order.

At the Town Hall, Conservancy members, councilmen, and concerned citizens worked feverishly to come up with satisfactory solutions to save the building. The demolition was postponed for an hour.

And then in true story book, happy ending fashion a solution was found. The wrecking crane slowly moved down Walton Street and out of Port Hope.

Today the Gary Russell building stands proudly as part of Port Hope's unique 19th century streetscape. A viable building with stores and offices—a building saved as a heritage for the future by the efforts of a determined Conservancy — a sympathetic council and concerned citizens.

#### Another offer

Continuing its efforts to restore the 19th century streetscape of Port Hope, the Conservancy has announced it will pay 50 per cent of the paint costs in the treatment of downtown Port Hope façades.

The offer is conditional on the work being done in accordance with colours specified in the Walton Street Study of restoration architect Peter John Stokes. The buildings must be of architectural or historical significance and located within the area designated by the study.

The Conservancy has received many applications for this offer and store owners are happily cooperating in this continuing drive to beautify the town.

Three buildings on Ontario Street, within the study area designated as the downtown core are presently being renovated and restored. The Conservancy is vitally interested in this project and is actively supporting the builder in this work.

#### Branch Congratulates LACAC

Congratulations to the Port Hope Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), a committee of Council, for their successful application to the Federal Government's Canada Community Development Programme. A grant of \$17,640 was received to employ three people to research and compile an inventory of all pre-turn-of-the-century buildings within the Town.

#### 1980 and 1981 Programs

The Conservancy program this year is one of the most active ones ever presented — every month has seen an outstanding event.

##### 1980

Oct. 4 — The annual house tour of Port Hope which was again most successful and resulted in hundreds of visitors enjoying a look at period homes.

Oct. 30 — The film "Architectural Conservation: Does it Matter?" An interesting explanation of restoration projects in Goderich and Kingston.

Nov. 29-30 — Quilt Collection Week End — held at Penryn Park. A remarkable collection of a fast reviving folk art.

Dec. 13 — The opening of the Gary Russell Building.

Dec. 21 — The President's Wine and Cheese Party.

##### 1981

Jan. 29 — "Antique Furniture of Ontario" an interesting lecture and slide presentation by Elizabeth Thompson Ingolsfrud.

Feb. 26 — "Canada's Heritage" a slide presentation by John de Visser, noted Canadian photographer.

March 18 — The beginning of an 8-week series of lectures by Peter John Stokes. "Cellar to Attic" — The Preservation and Maintenance of older homes.

March 26 — "Pioneer Gardens" a presentation by Helen Skinner of the Toronto Garden Club.

#### Coming Events

In May — "The Biggest Yard Sale In The World" featuring collectibles — antiques — and "the junk" that may be a treasure!

#### Fall House Tour

The Port Hope Branch will be having their fall house tour this year on October 3rd. Plans are now under way for this event and it should prove a delight as it will feature the gracious homes of Port Hope, the Churches and the distinctive downtown streetscape.

The progressive success of the Port Hope ACO is due to dynamic leadership and an interested and working membership. The problems of flood and fire last year and the success of the Conservancy in dealing with these solutions indicate the vitality of the organization.

Groups like conservancies are frequently criticized for being "elitist" — the most misused term in today's dictionary. But sometimes such accusations are justified.

Too frequently small town architectural societies become the pet hobby of large house owners — refugees from the big city who become instant architects — and artsy-craftsy faddists who regard restoration projects as the "new chic". All too often the long time residents of the town are ignored or patronized as not knowing a pilaster from a hitching post.

The Port Hope Architectural Conservancy has surmounted such criticism by a broadly based membership, community involvement, educational programs, and above all, by tangible results which all citizens of the Town can see and share as their own.

The streetscape of Port Hope is unique in Southern Ontario. The restoration projects of the Conservancy have brought a new awareness of visual beauty to the town. The people of Port Hope take pride in not losing the heritage of the past but restoring and enhancing it.

The Port Hope Architectural Conservancy has done this since it was founded. Its future plans insure the continuation of this success — an achievement shared by everyone. (Port Hope is really feeling its oats these days, and why not? M.G. - P.J.S.)

#### 1980-81 Executive

Past Pres.: A K. Sculthorpe; President: Anita

Blackwood; Secretary: Helen Bogyay; Treasurer: Cathy Moore. John D. Burns, Mell Chapple, Wilf Day, Dianne Glennie, Frankie Liberty, Joan Rumgay, Dick Symonds, Paul Wilson.

#### TORONTO REGION

##### "Applewood"

Late in 1980, the home of James Shaver Woodsworth was moved from its pleasantly treed and deceptively rural setting to the nearby Broadacres Park. This considerable project was undertaken by the Etobicoke Historical Society when the site was sold for redevelopment.

The house, known as Applewood, had been built by the Shaver family about 1850 and has been occupied by them until it was finally sold in the 1970s. Applewood has undergone many changes over its 130 year life but much of its original details are intact — the columned entrance porch and entrance doors with side and fanlights, black walnut staircase, and fireplaces. The relocation of the house was made possible by the generosity of the Shaver Bishop family, who donated the house and provided for the cost of relocation. In addition, the park site was donated by the Borough of Etobicoke.



THE MOVING OF "APPLEWOOD" — NOV. 1980

In addition to its architectural value, the home is important as the birthplace, in 1874, of James Shaver Woodsworth, the Founder of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, or C.C.F. Party.

The moving of such a large brick house was a formidable task and involved extensive grading of the park in order to provide a level track for the huge cradle. The house was carried down a long ramp and parked. Then the foundation was built under the walls and the beams forming the cradle were pulled out.

Unfortunately, at this time the Foundation

administering the house does not have sufficient funds to complete a thorough study to detail the restoration work necessary and the ultimate use of the building.

W.J.M.

## Tour Planned

Toronto Branch is planning trip to Dundurn.

## Research Hints at the Importance of the Dundurn Landscape

Sir Allan MacNab (1798-1862) speculated in land, built homes and railways, and as a sideline, became a politician. He eventually served as the prime minister of Upper Canada in the mid-nineteenth century. His home in Hamilton, Dundurn Castle (c. 1833), was a showpiece in its time, and its grounds were a prime example of the early Canadian landscape as it evolved from the English landscape garden school. Although the house was restored as a centennial project, the existing landscape bears no resemblance to MacNab's era.

Today the castle occupies a small plot surrounded by two sprawling city parks. While these three pieces of land represent the former Dundurn landscape, the connection has otherwise been lost. The former landscape could have been strongly tempered by harsh climate conditions and the relatively austere lifestyle of Upper Canada. Designed in the gardenesque style, the grounds originally featured sweeping entrance drives, prominent vistas directed towards Burlington Bay and the Niagara Escarpment, and a combination of gardens and ornamental plantings.

Dundurn was the foremost of a number of fine landscapes that were designed in the early days of Hamilton. George Laing, who worked at Dundurn Castle in 1856 and 1857, was also known to be involved in the design of landscapes at Auchmar (1857-1860), Rock Castle and Woodend in Ancaster (1859). Today the work of Laing and other early Canadian landscape architects remains largely unexplored. Hopefully future research projects will enlarge our knowledge of Laing and his contemporaries, and permit the accurate restoration of historic landscapes in Ontario.

David Bain,  
Mike Leonard,  
Department of Landscape Architecture,  
University of Toronto.

On Thursday, February 19th, an Architects Building and Biographical Card File was presented to Mr. Alan Suddon, Head, Fine Arts Department, Metro Toronto Library, 789 Yonge Street, by Mrs. Carolyn Neal, Past President of The Architectural Conservancy, Toronto Branch, and Chief and co-ordinator of the project. It becomes immediately available for reference.

## An Architects Building and Biographical Card File

The Architects Building and Biographical Card File was begun in 1975 as a project of the Toronto Region Branch of the Architectural Conservancy, to fill an obvious need. Since that date volunteer members have spent many hours researching and compiling information which is now being placed in the Fine Arts Department of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library.

Cards are divided into four sections: Architects, Builders Ontario; Architects, Builders York County. The Architects File makes no attempt to be complete after 1940, and more emphasis has been placed on 19th century builders. Miscellaneous information is recorded on the reverse of the card. It is our intention for this to be an open file — and our hope that information will continue to be added, regardless of date.

We acknowledge a grant from the City of Toronto which has met printing costs and allowed us to make a token payment for typing. Hours of work have been volunteered to make the file available — researching, compiling and typing.

name	DICK, David Braash	arch. x reg	1890bldr.	
born	1845 at Edinburgh, Scotland	office location	Toronto	
died	9 Sept. 1925 at Woking, Surrey, England			
education	Edinburgh Sch. of Design; Offices W.L. Moffatt, Paddle & Kinnear			
partners/dates	(Robt.) Grant & Dick -1875-			
building	address	date(s)	cost	source of info. dem.
SCHOOLS				
Univ. College, reblgd fire	Univ. of Tor.	1890		C (June 1927)176 Arthur Tor, No Hann City Tor, 1974, 176.
Library	Univ. of Tor.	1892	\$40,000	CAB (Jul.1891)76 CAB (Feb.1897)36-9 CAB (Oct.1889)115,11 C (June 1927)176
Dental College	93 College St.			
Biology Bldg.	Univ. of Tor.			
Physics Bldg (1)	Univ. of Tor.			
COMMERCIAL				
Consumers Gas Bldg.	Toronto St. e.s.	1873		C (June 1927)174-33 11 Dendy 1081 Tor, 1978, 84
ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO				over x.

(approx. half size)

We are grateful for each person's contribution, large or small. Two members must be singled out for special recognition: Miss Marjorie Fugler and Miss Frances Bain. Also to the following, a heartfelt thank-you; if we have missed your name we apologize:



Gray Barrick  
 Mrs. R. B. Bond  
 Margaret Burns  
 Thelma Campbell  
 Betty Cartwright  
 Ruth Cathcart  
 Mattie Clark  
 Helen Coleman  
 Freda Craite  
 Caroline Doulthart  
 Diane Dyer  
 Mildred Easto  
 John Fletcher  
 Thelma Frederick  
 Paula Gomme  
 Ivadele Goode  
 Mary Gooderham  
 Dorothy Gordon  
 Grace Harris  
 Robert Hill  
 Aileen Howes  
 Jessica Hunt  
 Margaret Lee  
 Dorothy Lee  
 Peggy Love

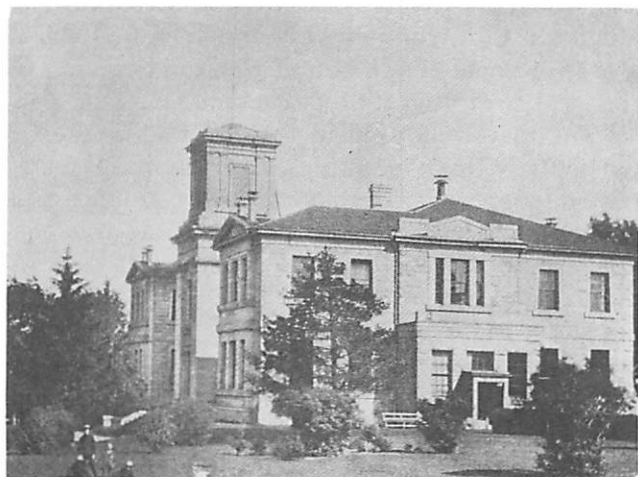
Ben Louie  
 Paul McGaw  
 Louise Mallory  
 Beatrice Magder  
 Hilda McFarlen  
 Anna McCoy  
 J.R.H. McNaughton  
 Diana Park  
 Robert Pepall  
 William Pickering  
 Diana Pilkington  
 Marion Porter  
 Anne Rawson  
 Kent Rawson  
 Daphne Roose  
 Kay Scantlebury  
 Marie Scott-Baron  
 Bessie Stewart  
 Margaret Tucker  
 Elizabeth Vickers  
 Robert Whitelaw  
 Marion Wright  
 Eleanor Wright  
 Dora Wattie

## HAMILTON-NIAGARA

### Central Public School

The first public school in Hamilton, Central School, was opened in 1853 to provide accommodation for approximately 1000 students. The enrolment fluctuated over the years, but when it declined to 108 students in 1977, the Board considered the closing of the school.

The original building was designed by Cumberland and Ridout, Toronto architects, in 1851. It was a two-storey stone building of "Italianate"



BEFORE 1890

design with a low roof and a squat central tower. In 1890, extensive changes were carried out to the exterior of the building in conformity with late Victorian tastes. A new steeply-pitched slated roof replaced the old one and the tower was extended to become a dominant feature of the building. In 1953, a gymnasium addition of strictly utilitarian character was built on the west side of the building. In 1977, the Central school was designated as an Ontario heritage building. At the same time, the second floor was closed for not complying with fire regulations, and an obsolescence report noted that the physical condition of the building required extensive renovations to provide a viable school, if enrolment would justify it.

A shared accommodation with a commercial company, which would occupy space in excess of school needs and would finance renovations through rent, appeared as an idea of great merit. The moving force behind this concept was the



New staircase to offices in Central Tower of front.

Tom Bochsler Photography Ltd.

Business Administrator, R. S. Cartmell. The Board approved the proposal, without the Ministry of Education support, and proceeded with the project of renovations and advertising for tenants.

The renovations at the cost of approximately \$500,000 were designed by the Board architect, J. B. Singer. The logical solution to shared ac-

commodation was to design the ground floor as a self-contained school unit, and the second floor for commercial offices with a separate entrance. The ground floor had already the traditional type "boys" and "girls" entrances at the east and west ends of the building. The second floor in the tower was removed and a circular stair entrance provided to offices from the street entrance. A cantilevered steel framing was faced with oak stair trim, balusters and handrail to create a stair compatible with the style of the building. The original tower bell, cast in monel with a date imprint of 1862, was placed in the entrance lobby facing the stair.

The "Ontario heritage" designation of the building precluded any exterior alterations. Original wood windows were replaced with double-glazed fixed aluminum sash, with baked enamel finish and horizontal divisions to match existing windows.\* The exterior stone facing was sandblasted and repointed. The sandblasting revealed a deeper colouring of stone used in the 1890 renovations of the upper structure of gables and tower than the colour of the original stone, thus giving the masonry façade a visual history of stylistic changes.

Interior renovations entailed removal of all partitions on both floors; on the ground floor to provide standard size classrooms, and on the second floor open space for demountable office partitions. Although original 1851 architectural drawings were obtained from the Ontario Archives, no drawings were available of the 1890 roof and tower alterations. It appeared that the trussed-rafter roof with ceiling joist ties was designed to span 56 feet, but it was thought prudent to support the trusses at their midpoint on wood posts resting on ground floor masonry corridor walls. The attic with its barn-like structure

extending over 25 feet in height was insulated and left for access to the tower clock.

The problem of providing a mechanical room and a cooling tower for heating and air conditioning was solved by increasing the depth of an existing coal bin in the basement and enlarging coal chutes to provide supply and return air shafts, without altering the exterior of the building. A gas-fired boiler with individual heat pumps in ceiling spaces supplied heating and air conditioning in the building.

Renovations were started in the fall of 1979 and the building was occupied by the school on the ground floor and Dalton Insurance Company on the second floor in September 1980. The Ontario Heritage Foundation offered a grant of \$25,000 towards renovations.

At the official Renewal Celebration of the building on November 17, 1980, attended by Board and City officials and the Central School Old Boys' Association, reminiscences of the past history of the building were recalled. The renewal opened a new chapter in the life of this historical building and Hamilton landmark.

J. B. Singer

\*Ed. Note: The glazing was changed in the 1890 alterations: see photograph before 1890.

### Bank of Montreal Building

The future of one of Hamilton's prominent financial buildings may be in jeopardy. The owners of the former headquarters of the Bank of Montreal in Hamilton applied for a demolition permit on August 19, 1980.

The building, at the southwest corner of Main and James Streets, in Hamilton's downtown financial district, was designed in a monumental classical style by Kenneth G. Rea, F.R.I.B.A., of Montreal. Construction was completed in 1929, at a cost of some five hundred thousand dollars, by the local firm, Pigott Construction.

The materials used in the building were of a particularly high quality and some were transported over considerable distances to the site. The one hundred and forty foot façade was constructed in Queenston blue dolomite, its central motif composed of four Corinthian columns supporting a pediment which incorporates the bank's coat of arms carved in stone. The interior is dominated by the thirty-five foot high banking hall. The floor is of Gustivino tile, known for its sound-proofing qualities, and the hall is decorated at either end with twenty-eight foot Ionic columns in red Levanto marble, rising from open mezza-



CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, HAMILTON 1980



nines. Pilasters are set against walls of Tennessee marble, and the ceiling is spanned by coffered ornamental girders in polychrome.

The bank's upper storey was furnished as living quarters for the male staff.

In September, 1929, the trade magazine 'Construction' devoted considerable space to the building, calling it a splendid example of the best type of bank architecture, and noting it as "an example of the stone carver's art of particular interest in the present period of much cast stone detail". In terms of the streetscape, the building is one of several architecturally prominent older buildings in this area of the downtown centre. If it were to be replaced by a high-rise, an unfortunate by-product would be the overshadowing of the spire of William Thomas's St. Paul's Church, immediately to the south.

In recent years, the Bank of Montreal building has served as the Reference Division of the Hamilton Public Library, but this department is now located in the city's new public library building, and the bank building is vacant.

Any demolition permit granted to the present owners, a Toronto-based development corporation, will naturally be delayed since the building has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The corporation's president has said that its intent in applying for the permit was merely to "get the ball rolling", bearing in mind the necessary waiting period. Demolition may not be contemplated if a suitable tenant can be found by the corporation.

### **James Street South**

The former premises of the Royal Hamilton College of Music, at 126 James Street South, are being renovated for reopening as an art and craft shop. The façade has already been sandblasted. The three-storey, red-brick building was erected in 1903. It was designed by A. W. Peene, also architect of the Main Library. The building was the headquarters of the Hamilton Conservatory of Music, later the College, from the time of its construction until the recent closure of the college, which resulted from financial difficulties.

City Council has approved demolition of a French Seventeenth Century style mansion at 206 James Street South. Constructed in 1883, the house is considered an important part of the residential, boutique, and professional area centering around James South. It will be replaced by a thirteen-storey commercial-apartment building, a twin to a building recently erected just north of the site. In supporting his request for demolition, the owner remarked of his building, "it is so de-

crepit it's a wonder standards allow it to exist". (Quoted in the Spectator, January 28, 1981). In cases such as these, rather than therefore approving demolition, Council might consider encouraging greater responsibility on the part of the property-owner.

The fate of the Bank of Montreal building, at the corner of Main Street, is as yet not definite, but demolition is a distinct possibility.

### **H.P.H. Firehall**

An old firehall on the Hamilton mountain grounds of the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital was recently demolished. Built in 1892, well before there were any fire stations on the mountain, the building was a rather ornate brick structure, equipped with a four-storey hose tower. Unfortunately, it was impossible to find any modern use for the firehall.

### **Other Buildings**

Renovations continue at Ballinahinch, an 1850's mansion at James and Aberdeen, and at the Southam Home, now the property of CHCH TV, at Caroline and Jackson streets. Extensive renovation is planned. The fate of the Main Library, on Main Street, east of the City Hall, has not been decided.

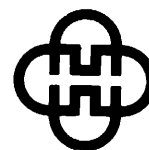
'The Castle', on James South above Duke, a Jacobean mansion designed by F. J. Rastrick and one of the finest buildings of its type in Canada, has been almost completely enclosed by recent development, so that only a portion of the roof-line can be seen from James Street. The exterior of the building is in poor repair and a fine stained glass window, depicting scenes from the time of Henry VII, was recently broken and replaced by a plain pane of glass. However, in deference to the building, the coffee shop which adorns its front lawn has been called 'The Donut Castle'.

Nevertheless, this may be a hidden blessing. The buildings around The Castle may in effect provide a time capsule, and when they are someday pulled down (their box-like design will not likely commend them to future generations), a fascinating and historic structure will emerge. With such a view to the future, The Castle is still certainly worthy of preservation.

## **HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE**

### **President's Report**

Heritage Cambridge continues to exert a favourable community influence. Although we



cannot be so bold as to claim direct involvement, we point with pride to the recycling of interesting Heritage buildings — Cafe 13, Graystone Arms, The Mill, The Post Office and the Stone Crock. Additionally the recycling of the major business building on Main Street, "The Boardwalk", the "Old Fire Hall" by James Richardson and Sons, and the massive recycling job now underway by The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, and of course our famous "Preston Public School!" Cambridge has indeed some historically significant buildings that are now viable business enterprises; there are still many more that could be made into attractive business premises to enhance the downtown core as well as the town centres of Preston and Hespeler.

### **The Riverbank**

On January 29th a general meeting was held in the old firehall building (now Richardson Securities) at which the focus of attention was the riverbank. The room was filled to capacity, indicating the interest felt in this subject now. Our chairman, Don McKay, presented a series of Heritage Cambridge slides, with commentary, produced to indicate what Heritage Cambridge perceives to be the devastation that will be brought on the Grand River bank by the implementation of the so-called "channel improvements" being planned by the G.R.C.A. in the interest of flood control. This production showed what may be expected when the final removal of buildings and trees along the river is complete and the dikes, walls and berms are in place. Following this, Alex Dufresne, a local lawyer, who is chairman of the Riverbank Committee for the city, presented a film which was produced especially to show the importance of the rivers in the life of Cambridge. The Speed and Grand rivers determined the growth of the early settlements, and they are still essential to the aesthetics and heritage of the City of Cambridge. To cut the Grand River off completely from the life of the town would be an act of vandalism, in our opinion, and the proposed plans do not seem to offer adequate flood protection.

### **Directors**

A new director, Frank Bernhardt, was welcomed to the Board of Heritage Cambridge. Mr. Bernhardt is a resident of the Preston area of the city. He fills the vacancy caused by the resignation of Andrew Taylor. Mr. Taylor and another former director, Kathleen Elliott were made honorary directors in recognition of their

great contributions to the work of Heritage Cambridge over many years. Andrew Taylor is a descendant of one of the first settlers in North Dumfries and his book "Our Today's and Yesterday's" is a standard work on the history of that area. He has been a director of Heritage Cambridge since its beginning. Kathleen Elliott has been noted for her public spirited activities in many fields, — so much so that a senior citizens' complex has been named in her honor, The Kathleen Elliott Court. We know we will have the continued interest of both these honorary directors, and will benefit from their experience and counsel.

### **The Old Firehall**

The hub of the Galt area of Cambridge is Market Square. The city hall, built in 1857, is in the centre, and the large clear space around it is defined by the market building, constructed in 1887, on the west, Wesley United Church, built in 1878, on the north, and the firehall on the east side. When the fire department recently moved its equipment to a new building elsewhere it was feared that this old structure might be pulled down. Built of red brick, with a corner tower, it is typical of the firehalls once found in almost every community in Ontario. Important in itself as a link to the past, the building is extremely important in its place. We are delighted to be able to report that Richardson Securities of Canada has refurbished it and put it to good use as their Cambridge office. The work has been well done, with the character of the building preserved. The general office area is on the ground floor, and a part of the upper floor has been turned into a meeting room, reached by a separate door. Heritage Cambridge was happy to be the first group to be allowed the use of this room.

### **Heritage Day**

As Cambridge has been fortunate in having five new restaurants opened in five old buildings within the last year it seemed fitting for Heritage Cambridge to urge people to celebrate Heritage Day by patronizing them. One of the five, "Greystones", was closed for renovations, but the others featured special old time dishes on their menus for the day. Heritage Cambridge arranged for publicity, and printed a brief history of each old building. "The Stone Crock" is in an old brick structure, built in 1869 near the river in Preston. It was originally a button factory, and has been beautifully renovated. "Cafe 13" and "The Old

Post Office" are almost across from each other on Water Street in downtown Galt. "Cafe 13" occupies the corner one of the fine series of stone buildings built along Main Street in the 1880's after a disastrous fire had caused the merchants to decree that stone be used for safety in future. Its decor compliments the heritage character of the building. "The Old Post Office" is in one of Cambridge's most interesting stone buildings. Built in 1885, it was the work of Thomas Fuller who also designed the central block of the old parliament buildings in Ottawa which were destroyed by fire in 1916. It has several dining rooms, — one overlooking the river. "The Mill" is beautifully situated in a commanding position on the Grand River bank in the Galt area. Originally a gristmill, known as the Dickson Mill, this is one of the finest stone buildings in Cambridge. The date stone over the door reads 1842. It has been most sympathetically renovated, taking full advantage of the excellent stonework, and the river view. There is ample opportunity for celebrating our heritage in Cambridge, — not just in February, but all through the year.

## BRANT COUNTY

### Projects

The Branch is currently up-dating the survey of the core area made by the six students hired through a government grant in 1978. Some urgency is felt because of the increasing number of older structures being demolished.

### Wynarden

Wynarden, or 'Yates Castle', is currently being considered for re-cycling as a restaurant. The vast amount of money needed to upgrade the property is the main impediment. Mr. Steve Talos, son of the new owner, is investigating every possible source of assistance.

### Downtown

The long-awaited Downtown Development has still not taken place. The Branch has presented material on the threatened George Street terrace to the developer, the new City Council, and the general public through "The Brantford Expositor". The following is a summary of the history and architecture of these old buildings.

The Kerby Hotel opened its doors to Brantford citizens on August 24, 1854. For a community which just a few years previously had assumed city status; it was a magnificent confir-

mation. Providing rooms for 500 guests, it was one of the largest hotels in Canada West.

But, in 1857 the bubble burst and the hotel, like most Brantfordites, found itself in financial trouble. In 1858 its doors were closed and by 1865 the owners had it up for sale. Such was the state of the community there were no buyers.

Meanwhile, the hotel's salvation was being engineered in the United States, where an organization of Irishmen, more driven by hatred of Britain than by common sense, were planning to conquer Canada. The resulting Fenian Raids, although they did nothing for the Irish cause, brought about a revival in the hotel's fortunes and a stimulus to Brantford's trade. The hotel became a barracks for a series of British Army regiments which were sent to protect Queen and Country. In so doing they became important as distributors of British taxpayers' money. (R.M.)

Today two buildings along George Street, built at the time of the Kerby revitalization in 1869 and, we were told, used in the upper storeys as hotel rooms, remind us of the enterprising and innovative business men who inhabited Brantford around the turn of the century.

Viewing the buildings from the Market Square, 21 and 19 on the left retain the Mansard roof with dormers which once extended the length of the double terrace. The roof has now been removed from the seven premises from 5-17 George Street. A fire on the third floor of the hotel to the rear of the buildings in 1949 was the cause of the removal of the mansard. The remaining mansard is of patterned slate with rose and grey hexagonal tiles in an oval pattern with one unit of pattern between each dormer of four. Each has a pediment at the top over a rounded window frame. Brackets are situated on either side near the top of each window.

All of the buildings, 5-21, have a main storey where the businesses are located, and one upper storey below the mansard. The proportions of the three storeys are especially good where the mansard is still in evidence. The second floor windows have single mouldings on their hoods, each ending in a bracket. Each is topped by a keystone pressed in a tracery pattern. The windows are double sash on the structures 5-17 George Street. 19 and 21 have tracery windows with two lancets and a uni-foil centre top. The windows have marked stone sills of normal proportions. Fretted stones are set into the corners of the buildings between the quoins.

The storefronts themselves have been altered many times. One supposes that originally each



5-21 GEORGE STREET, BRANTFORD

premises had a recessed door, sloping display window, and overhead sign. "Hankinson Seeds", number 7, retains its original store front featuring glass mounted between moulded brass window uprights.

Individually and together, this double terrace of buildings is a distinguished monument from the past, with attractive details suitable for today's small shops or for departments in a larger complex. Such has been the recommendation of the Brant County Branch.

### Program

The Annual Meeting of the Branch was held in October. Officers include: Don Pettitt, President; Don Musson, Vice-President; Catharine Field, Treasurer; Audrey Scott, Executive Secretary. The slide-tape show on Old Brantford shown by Mr. Wes Switzer was very well received.

### November General Meeting

Mr. Karel Kippers, Architectural Technology Instructor at Mohawk College, was the speaker for the November General Meeting. The topic, "Canadian Architecture, its Origins and Development," was of particular interest to the group assembled. Origins were sought among two defeated groups — the French, defeated at Quebec in 1759, and the English Loyalists, defeated in the U.S. in the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Kippers explained that the Quebec bell-shaped roof became more pronounced over the early centuries in Canada. Residence plans were originally asymmetrical and marked by prominent roof dormers. Restorations in Quebec City were pointed out and the choice to restore to pre-conquest times rather than to a variety of dates was noted. The latter choice for restoration would have been more natural and perhaps have offered more variety in the streetscape. Of particular

interest was a modern shopping concourse with buildings designed the same shape and of the same materials as earlier structures, but exhibiting modern features such as wide glass fronts. Commercial areas were outlined, with the plea to conservationists to find uses for upper storeys of old commercial buildings. Mr. Kippers also mentioned the need to be ready with answers before an heritage area is actually threatened.

### Christmas Church Tour

Alexandra Presbyterian and St. Jude's Anglican were the churches featured in the 1980 Christmas Church Tour of the branch. Mrs. Audrey Scott described the architecture at Alexandra Church, which was built in the era of the great preachers, and shows its origins in its auditorium style. Door panels, window placement, decorative medallions throughout the church repeat the series of four units, standing for the Gospels and the Apostles who propounded them. Mr. Malcolm MacAlpine, church historian, further elaborated the history and origins of the church, which was built in 1912 and displays many Neo-Romanesque style elements. Mr. Don Battenham explained the history of St. Jude's Church, built in 1871, while Mrs. Florence Eason pointed out much of the symbolism in the wall paintings, carved rood screen, baptistry and lancet windows. Here much use is made of the number three, symbolizing the Trinity.

### Mini-Tour

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wyatt hosted the Conservancy mini-tour of their historic residence, "Echo Villa", at 743 Colborne, on Saturday, January 3, 1981. The home was built in 1851 by the Rev. Peter Jones, who had been a missionary to the Mississauga Indians, to whom he was related. Many of the original features of the home have been retained such as the Neo-Classic portico with the frieze and pillars, a porch pediment and a second-storey pediment framing a beautifully proportioned Palladian window. A panelled door surrounded by side-lights and transom is an interesting feature, as are the second-floor cupola, stair-rail, and centre-hall elliptical arch.

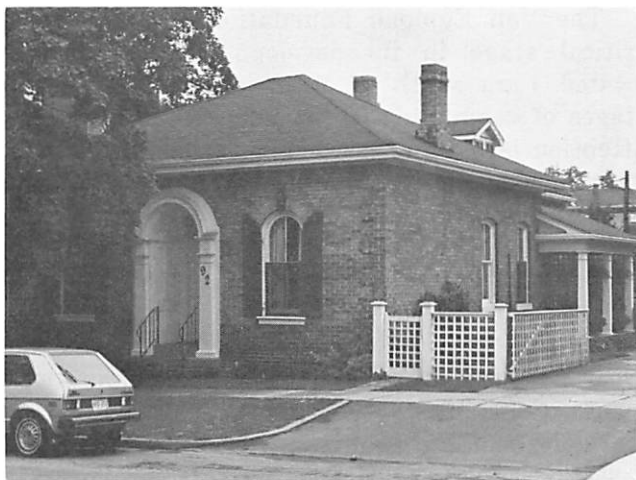
### Winter Workshop

Jamie Owen, artist and collector, was guest of the branch's second winter workshop, held in February at St. Paul Avenue Library. Mr. Owen explained his interest in old doors. "I judge a door on its character, its warmth," he said. His recent exhibit at the Centennial Gallery, Oakville, drew

a record attendance. Here doors were displayed as they came from the site, dust, cobwebs and all. Slides of the exhibit as well as slides of Brantford and of European doors were shown. A similar slide show was presented by Audrey Scott for the local Cablecast "Glenhyrst Half Hour."

#### Awards

Awards were presented for preserving and maintaining older structures by the Branch. Galuppi Hair Design received the October award for the commercial structure with its deep bargeboards on wide gables. Shelagh's Flowers on Brant Avenue, also a commercial structure, received the November award. Mrs. Shelagh Moyer, proprietor, explained that when her family purchased the building, some of the rooms had been papered in newspaper or brown paper bag squares. There is an attractive stained-glass window, and an original marble fireplace. The high ceilings are ideal for plants of all sizes. Both Alexandra



92 CHARLOTTE STREET.

Presbyterian and St. Jude's Anglican Churches received awards at the December Church Tour, while 92 Charlotte, an Ontario Cottage with an unique recessed doorway, received the February award. The cottage, which was built about 1871, has been preserved on the exterior close to its original condition. Miss Constance Heddle and her sister Mrs. Maud Jones own the cottage, which also has two arched windows of good proportions and some decorative brickwork.

Audrey Scott

#### HURON COUNTY

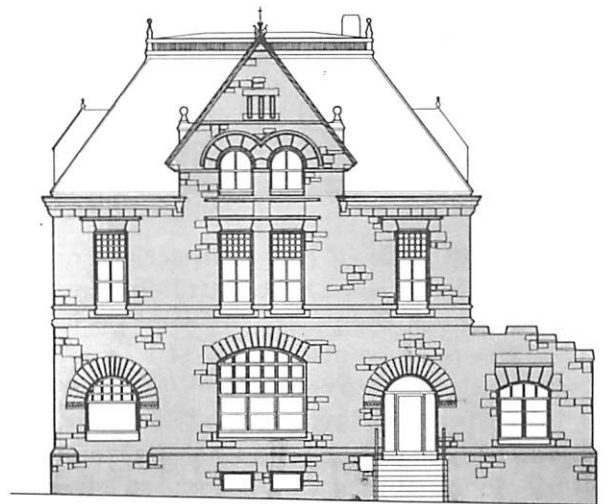
The Huron County Branch bows to the unpredictability of the storms which blow across Lake Huron and foregoes winter meetings. How-

ever there has been considerable activity in the county in planning for restoration projects for the summer.

#### Goderich

The Goderich Town Council has approved the restoration of the Town Hall. This large and imposing building is on West Street. One of the main radial streets from the Square, West Street was the first street to be built up as the pioneer settlement moved up the hill from its beginnings on the waterfront. The Town Hall was designed by Thomas Fuller, architect of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa, as Post Office. It was constructed in 1890 of massive blocks of Guelph stone. It has been in use as Town Hall since 1961. As has not been the case, the town's business will now occupy the whole building with offices on the ground floor, council chamber on the second and committee rooms on the third. An Ontario Heritage Grant will be used to repair and restore the façade.

Hill and Borgal are in charge of this work and are involved as well in a novel project sponsored by the Town and County Councils. This is the provision of a marine museum in a park at the foot of Harbour Hill. The wheelhouse and Captain's quarters will be removed from the Weldon, a defunct Great Lakes freighter,, and placed in the park. The structure will provide a two-storey museum, rounded in plan and of metal.



TOWN HALL, GODERICH

It appears that the town's most historic house, the home of Thomas Mercer Jones, Commissioner of the Canada Company from c.1839 to 1858, may be restored to its original appearance. Jones fell out of favour with the Company, was dismissed



and moved from the house in 1858. It was then used for a brief period as headquarters for the Bank of Upper Canada. Since that time it has been in continuous use as a hotel. In 1945 a fire in the third floor damaged the fine French-style roof with its dormer windows. In its place a complete third storey was added with a flat roof which destroyed the pleasing symmetry of the house. Stucco was put over the pine siding at that time as well. The present owner intends to restore the roof and to add a new kitchen and outdoor dining patio at the rear.

The LACAC is proceeding toward the designation of a further ten buildings (it designated thirteen in 1977) and expects the plaquing to take place on Founders' Day, June 29.

Unfortunately there is still a disturbing trend in local building. In spite of there being several vacant stores at this time in the core area, new and ugly convenience and other stores keep springing up on the outskirts.

#### **Clinton**

B.I.A. plans for downtown revitalization are now firmly in place with the engineering drawings completed. The Town Hall square will be beautified, the main parking area upgraded and landscaped and a statue will ornament the small park on the main corner where the original key building has long been removed.

The former Royal Bank building across the street on the same corner has been most attractively recycled as a jewelry store.

Private enterprise has also rescued an 1852 board and batten house near the town hall from demolition for parking. The house, unaltered, is now a beautiful gift shop, The Board and Batten.

#### **Seaforth**

The Seaforth Town Hall is in serious need of repair to its brick work that scaffolding has been erected to protect the passersby. Some decision as to its future must be made soon. The LACAC has persuaded Council to designate Cardno's Hall. This interesting building provided an opera house on its second floor which still has its nineteenth Century decor. It has not been used since the 1930s. The Seaforth LACAC has applied to Council for funds to hire an architect to do a study of Main Street with the view of declaring it an Historic District.

#### **Exeter**

The official opening of the restored Town Hall took place in November with the Honourable

Reuben Baetz officiating. The original clock has been replaced by an electric one with its controls on the ground floor. The wooden works of the old clock will be on display in a suitable location. The restored building is now completely self-supporting from the rental of its space and the Exeter Heritage Foundation is resting after a well deserved victory.

We tend to report only what is happening in our urban centres. It is worthy of note that during recent years there has been a significant movement among the farmers in the county toward upgrading their houses. While some of these efforts do not appear to the conservationist to be appropriate, there are enough that do, with their restorations of verandahs, barge boards, etc. to encourage one to believe that appreciation of our building heritage is growing throughout the county.

#### **The Van Egmond Foundation**

The Van Egmond Foundation has reached a critical stage in its development: the house, located 1 km south of Seaforth, is in its final stages of completion of primary restoration. Our attention is now focussed upon promotion of the museum/community house throughout South-western Ontario and eventually to the whole Canadian public.

The history of the house is such that it should be promoted nation-wide. Built by Constant Van Egmond in 1846-47 in Georgian style, it was the focal point of Egmondville's economic development. Constant Van Egmond's father, Col. Anthony Van Egmond, was instrumental in the construction of the Huron Road from Waterloo County to Goderich. This is the first instance in Canada of the road being built before the settlers arrived. This approach was later used by the CPR when it settled the West.

Because of Van Egmond's trouble with the Canada Company, which was financing the settlement of Huron County, he joined William Lyon Mackenzie's forces at Montgomery's Tavern in York (Toronto). He arrived on Dec. 7, 1837 only to discover that Mackenzie had sounded the battle cry three days earlier. The chaos that resulted ended in total defeat for the Rebel forces. As Mackenzie escaped to America, Van Egmond was thrown in the Don Gaol, Toronto, where he died on Jan. 5, 1838. Branded a rebel, his 13,000 acres of land in the Huron Tract were confiscated; all that remains of his holdings is the land upon which the Van Egmond House is built. It now stands as a monument to this man's contributions

to the settlement of the Huron Tract and the eventual instigation of Responsible Government in Canada, 1841.

Because the museum is also a community house, it is our hope that such vibrant history will come alive to visitors not only through observation but through participation. In November, 1980, Grade 12 and 13 students from Seaforth District High School participated in the archaeological digs which are going on behind the house, supervised by archaeologists from the Department of Indian Archaeology at the University of Western Ontario, London.

In December, three women were employed under a federal community Development Programme grant to initiate the promotion of the House. Programming includes a concert by the London Symphony on February 17, 1981, cross-country ski lessons, a lecture series by the Stratford Art Gallery staff, art exhibitions by Huron County artists, and the annual Ciderfest and Fiddler's Jamboree. Heritage Packs, describing such topics as the settlement of Huron County; Col. Van Egmond's contributions to Canada; pioneer lifestyles; and our architectural heritage, are being developed and will be available for use in schools, museums and art galleries.

We are very proud of the fact that this non-profit organization has never been supported by municipal taxes. It is an exciting period for all concerned with the Van Egmond Foundation and we hope many people in Huron County will volunteer for active participation in this project. For more information contact The Van Egmond Foundation, Box 1033, Seaforth, 519-527-0413. The house is open to visitors and school tours throughout the year, with admission cost.

Susan Dunlop,  
Project Manager

## NORTH WATERLOO REGION

The Peter John Stokes lecture series on the preservation and maintenance of older houses ended at the beginning of December on a wild and stormy night. The location of the final session was Ron and Wendy Cascaden's red brick Georgian house in Waterloo. The house is currently being restored and the Cascaden's gave the class a "blow by blow" description of their experiences. Wine and cheese in front of a roaring fire provided an appropriate finale to the evening (and to the lecture series).

Also in December the North Waterloo Region held a "members only" Christmas house tour.

This highly enjoyable event began at the house of Joye and Paul Krauel in Waterloo where we enjoyed wine and cheese and admired the Krauel's magnificent collection of antiques. Then, mellow and full of good cheer, we drove through the ice and snow to New Hamburg to visit Bev and Pete Grierson's field stone house, built in 1862. Here we sampled Christmas cake and cookies and drank coffee. The house has recently been restored by the Grierson's with great taste and sensitivity, plus of course, a tremendous amount of hard work. Both houses were beautifully decorated for Christmas and the evening was a truly memorable occasion.

On February 16th we celebrated Heritage Day in style with a "movie night". The three films shown were "The Log House" (NFB) "Architectural Conservation: does it matter" (Heritage Canada) and "The Present Past" (CBC). It seemed particularly appropriate to mark Heritage Day with such an event and I hope that this will become a regular feature of our activities.

Our next scheduled event is our first annual general meeting on May 21st when Dr. Talman, a historian at the University of Western Ontario, will be the speaker. Dr. Talman is also Chairman of the Conservation Review Board.

Our Executive Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and has devoted some thought to the things we would like to do over the next two or three years. There is a strong feeling that we should feature some speakers with "battle experience" of restoration i.e. people who have been closely involved in the restoration of old houses. Tours within the North Waterloo Region plus day trips to other places of interest in the Province will probably become a regular feature of our programmes. It has also been suggested that we should establish a collection of old photographs of heritage buildings. A further suggestion that we initiate a collection of significant remnants of buildings that have been destroyed is, of course, dependent upon finding suitable storage space.

However, the project that has generated the most interest and enthusiasm is the suggestion that we publish a booklet recording the architectural riches of the area since these are widely scattered and not generally appreciated. It has been tentatively suggested that this should cover the 100 most notable heritage buildings in the North Waterloo Region. A spin-off from this would be a slide presentation which we could present to interested groups in the area. This will obviously be a major project for the branch.

## Trees, Vines and Architecture

It seems that trees and vines sometimes become a politic compromise with regard to restoration, and occasionally even a political consideration. Witness the controversy over a couple of statuesque spruces now hiding the restored Schneider House, home of the founder of Berlin, or Kitchener as it is now known. These are out of place and out of period and obscure the front. The mayor of the city has come to their defence, citizen opinion supports them: the purists may have to bide their time.

This reminds us of the almost contretemps over the Christmas trees planted in front of Cobourg's Victoria Hall, under the aegis of that redoubtable lady, Lenah Fisher, former deputy-reeve of the town. Originally a matched pair of blue spruces these trees were rapidly outgrowing their original purpose and seemed to some to be out of keeping with the Classical civic building behind. One tree lost its leader and thwarted thus could no longer keep up to the other; now there is the long and the short problem. A suggestion that these trees be moved and that carpet bedding in the best Victorian park tradition be substituted as an appropriate decoration of the forecourt met with steadfast disapproval: in no way was Lenah Fisher going to allow that to happen. Now that that great supporter of the preservation of

Victoria Hall is no longer alive, to be persuaded, we hope that her spirit can be encouraged to enjoy the change proposed.

All of us read and presumably agreed with Dr. Eric Arthur's comments some time ago in the *Globe and Mail* to the effect that vines, picturesque as these may be, so often obscure the architecture. His suggestion was to remove the offending verdure. Obviously he was referring to the plights of buildings like William Thomas' Courthouse of 1847 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The building is smothered in Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*), now reported to be the largest — and possibly some of the oldest — to be found in Ontario. It may well be that an eight inch diameter trunk throttling the north side and a six inch splendour in the west side may be perpetuated in the Honour Roll of Trees if Alderman Clement of the Town can manage it. Perhaps a compromise should be worked out to allow the vines on the side walls to remain, for the side elevations were never part of Thomas' main consideration because they were obscured by buildings alongside at the time, but clear the green embroidery from the north front facing Queen so that this impressive and boldly detailed façade may take its rightful place in the architecture of the main street.

Peter John Stokes

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## NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

### HERITAGE OTTAWA

#### The Clegg House

Following partial demolition October 27th, 1979, of the historic Clegg House, the City of Ottawa was in the process of suing St. Peter's Lutheran Church, owners of the property, for wilful damage to a heritage property. The City was also proceeding with expropriation of the property in an attempt to save it from demolition.

However, the new City Council voted February 4th in favour of dropping charges against the Church on the condition that a compromise can be reached between the two parties.

The 126-year old former home of Capt. William Clegg, Royal Engineer of the Rideau Canal, was designated as heritage under the terms of the Heritage Act in July 1979.

The house was originally built for Capt. Clegg who subsequently rented the property to Gustavas

William Wecksteed, Barrister and Chief Law Clerk, House of Commons. The house was also once occupied by Louis W. Coutlee, Barrister, who participated in the Capture of Louis Riel and who served in the Fenian Raids of 1886.

Following is a copy of a letter Heritage Ottawa's president will be sending to Mayor Marion Dewar and Members of Council.

'The Board of Heritage Ottawa understands that Council is considering abandoning its legal proceedings against St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the matter of unlawful demolition of the Historic Clegg House in October 1979.

We wish to express our deepest concerns over this negative turn of events because we feel it will render heritage legislation in this City and across the Province ineffective. The future preservation of numerous heritage buildings across the City will be in jeopardy because in-

discriminate owners will know that they can flout heritage laws.

We hope that Council realizes that the prime issue is not a question of vindictive action against a church, nor even whether the sad remains of a historic building should be restored, but whether Council is prepared to uphold the principles of the City's and the Province's heritage laws.

We urge Council to proceed with the legal actions it started and for which it obtained approval from the provincial minister, and to ensure that the site and the remains of the Clegg House are appropriately treated in accordance with the declared public interest.'

Heritage Ottawa has received a grant in the amount of \$444.20 from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation in support of their activities. This is their first receipt of a grant from the Ministry. Possible uses for this grant are now being discussed by the Board.

Over the past several years, Heritage Canada has approached the Federal Government with proposals to amend the Income Tax Act in favour of heritage preservation. In support of these efforts, the City Councils of Winnipeg, Ottawa, Halifax, Toronto and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have endorsed similar proposals for amending the Income Tax Act. Heritage Winnipeg has written to Heritage Ottawa asking for support to take their proposed amendment to the Act to Ottawa.

Following are excerpts from a pamphlet received from Heritage Winnipeg in which they use quotes from "Management of the Cultural Landscape" (Heritage Canada 1979).

'When a person owns investment property, he can deduct depreciation from his taxable income. When he "disposes" of the property, if he had deducted depreciation in excess of the real drop in market value, then this overdepreciation will be brought back into taxable income. This is called 'recapture' of depreciation; it makes sure that a person cannot claim deductions on his tax return for 'depreciation' which never really took place.

Every owner of depreciable property is subject to this rule — with one exception: a person who demolishes his building is exempt from the "recapture" provisions of The Income Tax Act. For example, an owner who donated his building to charity or to the government might still incur a taxable "recapture" of depreciation, but an owner who disposes of a building by demolition escapes any possibility of recapture. Consequently, he is in a much more favourable position than other tax payers.

The reason for this unequal treatment is that demolition is the only way in which one can dispose of a building in practice without having "disposed" of it according to the Income Tax Act. Since "recapture" can only occur when the building has been "disposed of", then there can be no recapture on demolition.

This problem has an even more drastic consequence. Since the Income Tax Act says that a demolished building has not been "disposed of", it says that the building which has disappeared has gotten "lost". In the case of an investment property, this "lost" building is called a "terminal loss". It is entirely deductible from taxable income. For example, if an owner demolished a building with a book value of \$100,000 he could deduct that entire value from his taxable income. If the deduction cannot be claimed all in one year, it can be spread over a maximum of seven years.

The Income Tax Act provides no incentive whatsoever to renovation. Unlike the recent tax treatment of new high density residential construction, there are no tax shelters for renovation. Unlike the case of other desirable expenditures which promote national identity (e.g. film production), there is no accelerated depreciation permissible for efforts to spruce up the national heritage. Unlike the case of the United States, there are no tax deferments possible to help renovators over the crucial initial years of a renovation project.'

Heritage Winnipeg makes the following proposals;

1. Rehabilitation costs incurred in respect of a designated historic building would be deductible in their entirety over a three-year period.
2. A purchaser of a designated historic building who proceeds to "substantially" rehabilitate it, in addition to having available the accelerated write-off for the rehabilitation costs outlined in the first point, would also be able to deduct his purchase over a period of five years.
3. The accelerated write-offs outlined in the first two points would operate as a tax shelter (that is, if such write-offs created a loss in a year in respect of the designated historic building, such loss would be available to off-set other sources of income of the owner of the building).
4. There would be no terminal loss triggered on the demolition of a designated historic building (that is, the undepreciated capital cost remaining in respect of the building would not be usable as a deduction in the year of demolition).

Heritage Ottawa agrees as an organization to

stand behind Heritage Winnipeg in its efforts to change the Income Tax Act in favour of restoration as opposed to demolition.

Please send letters of support to the Hon. Allan MacEachen, Minister of Finance, to his Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. John Evans, to the Hon. John Roberts, Minister for the Environment, and to his Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. Roger Simmons.

### A Matter of Opinion

In discussing the possibilities of assistance in preservation causes considered important from a Provincial point of view, a higher ranking official of the Heritage Administration Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation avowed not long ago that intervention in local affairs could not be considered unless initiated by the municipality concerned. This would be in spite of a valid case being brought to attention and an obvious cause for concern expressed. And preservation still being a long way behind sports, not to mention motherhood, those keenly interested are often in the minority and seldom properly represented by those elected. For want of a nail, the shoe was lost, and for want of teeth the nag was starved, love, labour and grooming notwithstanding.

### Smith-Russell block (continued from page 1)

Negotiations to save the front were initiated by the Port Hope Branch of the ACO and Mr. Gary Russell, the owner, was able to receive grants towards the restoration and the construction of the top floor shell behind the three storey façade. \$75,000 was contributed by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, specifically for the front, and additional funds were provided by the R. Samuel McLaughlin Foundation, the MacLean Foundation, the J. P. Bickell Foundation, the Laidlaw Foundation and through private subscriptions, a total of \$222,000 having been arranged towards the cost of the project through the efforts of the Port Hope Branch of the Conservancy.

Restoration included the front wall brickwork, window frames and sash, shopfront cornice, and plate glass shopfronts inspired by a later Victorian period. The roof and chimneys were demolished, the body of the building completely rebuilt in a modern steel frame and concrete block structure, the old front wall anchored to the new work.

Structural consultant on the project was

Walter Blackwell, P.Eng., of M. S. Yolles and Partners Limited of Toronto. The wooden shopfronts were made by Bob Johnston of the Millworks, Paisley, Ontario. The general contractor on the project, also responsible for work on the front, was Chomitz Construction Company Ltd., of Cobourg. Peter John Stokes acted as consulting restoration architect for the front.

The removal of the original structure behind the façade, a necessary though sad part of the project, led to some fascinating findings and revealed the inherent weaknesses and later man-made faults of such older buildings. The double pitched roof (a gable form parallel with the street) was carried by cross joists resting on the wing walls, rather than rafters from outer wall to centre ridge, a transition obviously to the later building type with low slope shed roofs. The location of wing walls suited the interior plan and allowed for a curious centre section, narrow at the front with curved walls opening out to a larger section behind, the latter accommodating staircases. Possibly this had been intended as a carriage entrance to the yard behind. The front was a purely architectural façade, symmetrically arranged, the pilaster treatment common to the second building period of 1850-60, here with wooden caps, and a bold brick cornice in the Port Hope tradition.

Other interesting facts came to light in the course of demolition which demonstrated how much the Walton Street buildings had been modified in the course of reconstruction after previous fires. The building to the east, forming the focus at the end of Queen Street, is an 1844 structure, this with the earlier type broad pilasters with recessed panels containing windows, and was originally the American Hotel. To the west of the Smith-Russell block was an earlier wall structure towards the front which belonged to the predecessor to its present c. 1860 neighbour. The wall of the earlier building had to be extended to the rear to accommodate the deeper Smith-Russell block, and the different brickwork and vertical joint between the two was clearly evident. Cal Clayton, one of Port Hope's principal local historians, who provided old photographs of the Smith-Russell block showing changes of c. 1880, noted that the earlier block to the west had been destroyed by fire: its west end survives, however, as part of the party wall between the two buildings.

Cover photo courtesy of  
The Port Hope Evening Guide



### The Other Side of the Coin

While we can congratulate the owner and his supporters on the retention of a remarkable front to the magnificent 19th century streetscape of Port Hope, a huge gap has been rent in the other side flanking the Ganaraska bridge. Not only was the old Fire Hall, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, torn down by the Town itself, although not irreparably damaged by the sudden early spring flood of 1980, but a long two storey block, including a former post office location, has been removed. The devastation is sad indeed: may we be thankful for any mercy, the Smith-Russell block included.

It seems all our historic cores are suffering. Guelph sees the restoration of the Wellington Hotel block and the destruction of the Canada Trust corner on Wyndham Street. Dundas loses the Grafton Block. But Aylmer's old Town Hall and Opera House is about to start a new phase of its life. Sparta's hotel, the Elgin House, is being preserved at the village's main corner. While old Niagara has a strange replica to replace an 1825 corner block and a small house has been relocated to produce a nasty gap in a side street, Picton tears down another large slice of West Main Street for yet another supermarket. St. Mary's still has its outstanding Opera House block, for how long is still not known. Perth, it seems, is the only historic town to consolidate its position by building a new focus of commercial activity in the central core and try out an imaginative incentive program to stimulate downtown preservation and rehabilitation. We await results from that community with hope and great interest.

### AROUND AND ABOUT:

#### Happenings in Ontario

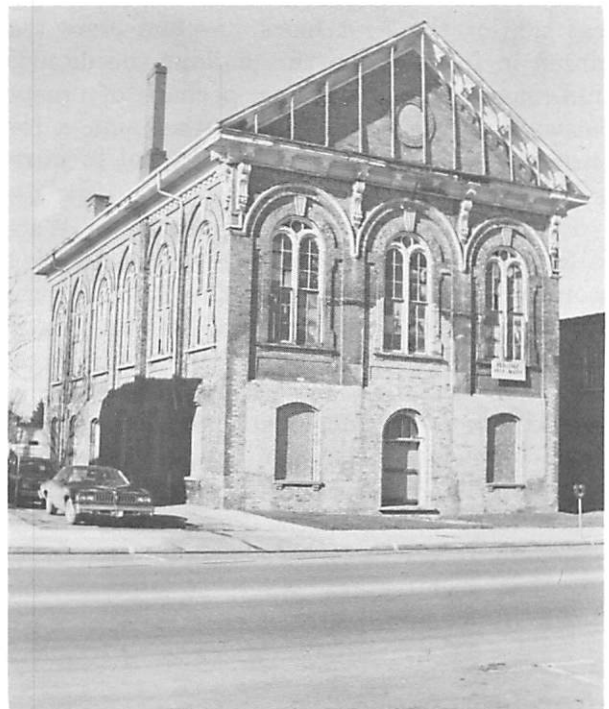
##### AYLMER

The old Town Hall and Opera House has been the subject of another battle recently and won, we are glad to report, in its favour. The feasibility study by Carlos Ventin, Architect, considered the building's rehabilitation and re-use. A proposal was developed to allow the local public library to occupy the ground floor, formerly the town hall and fire hall, to provide much needed extra space the old Carnegie building could no longer serve. Funding was explored, and most of the costs covered, when a referendum at the last municipal election resulted in a slight majority against proceeding with the project. The new Council, however, was in favour of the scheme, and voted to

go ahead, realizing that financial assistance was assured, whereupon a citizen brought an action against them on the basis of the referendum results

Judgement was in favour of the Council's right to proceed, since it was elected to act on behalf of the citizens and in their best interests. The referendum might indicate citizen opinion, to some extent, but not completely as happens so often with petitions, which are likewise often treated as indicators rather than as determinants of policy.

Hats off to all those who persevered in the preservation of this fine example of the later 19th century civic building. And gratitude is due for a just decision which reinforces the good judgement of the Corporation and many of Aylmer's citizens and their supporters.



OLD TOWN HALL AND OPERA HOUSE 1874 — shorn in 1980 of its ugly front addition of 1911, and now requiring the restoration of a porch and eventually the cupola.

Photo courtesy Wilfrid Chalk

##### COLLINGWOOD

A most successful improvement scheme was completed last fall on the Promenade section of Hurontario Street, the main commercial area under the B.I.A. (Business Improvement Area). Trees, planting, seating, and new lighting and paving have been arranged in three blocks of the core. Everyone awaits the first leaves of spring

after the hoped-for snows of winter which mean so much to the area and its skiing enthusiasts. The wide and handsome main street has a magnificent ship abuilding at the end of it right now: how wonderful to view progress and prosperity at first hand every time you go downtown.

The landscaping of the main street has been far more imaginative than most improvement schemes where so often puny mophead trees are sunk into potholes in the sidewalk or sidewalks are so planted with planters that main street looks like a super tank trap. In Collingwood trees have been grouped at corners to provide shade for seats and sidewalks widened to shorten crossings and provide a forecourt to the Town Hall. But we have only one criticism for the scheme and this is an architectural detail (perhaps our inclination or bias you might say) the landscape architect denied a rightful place. The 1914 marble Post Office, a neo-Classic tour de force set back on the west side of the first block has had more trees planted in front of it: this building needs maximum exposure and a frame, perhaps of creeper-clad walls to the buildings on either side, a forecourt of its own and a reflecting pool to mirror its magnificence.

Four students from the University of Waterloo School of Architecture are now at work on recording the streetscape of the B.I.A. area as part of their co-op program. The students are assisting Peter John Stokes in the study to provide recommendations for treatment of the downtown buildings to follow the improvements already completed. (The idea follows the concept in the Walton Street Study in Port Hope.) Suggestions may allude to the Post Office problem previously referred to, needless to say, in the hope that architecture, where it survives, may shine and not be unjustly shaded.

## DUNDAS

The Advisory Board of the ACO reported on two building complexes in Dundas a few years back, indicating their importance to the streetscape and the town's downtown area. Subsequently a downtown study on the theme of revitalization, was carried out by A. J. Diamond Associates. One of the blocks, including the old Music Hall, was the subject of an improvement scheme. But we are sad to report that the other, at the main intersection on the approach from Hamilton, namely the Grafton Block, has been torn down, leaving the usual gaping hole: regrets locally and a feeling of frustration.

## GUELPH

The truth is out — the rebuilt Canada Trust corner, destroying the only pre-Confederation downtown block to survive in Ontario, is there for all to see.

Our only comment is — robbery is no exchange.

## NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Much discussion centres around the consideration of an improvement scheme designed by the Landplan Collaborative Limited of Guelph for five blocks of Queen-Picton Streets in the main commercial area of the old Town of Niagara. The proposal is an imaginative treatment favouring the growing pedestrian use of the core. However some people appear to be critical if not opposed despite the fact that the boulevards are worn out, the sidewalks rough, and the place has a very down-at-heel appearance at the moment, hardly that of the old historic town you may remember.

Public meetings have been held to view and discuss proposals for parking, bus routes and stops in the town too. Buses have become an increasing problem, and many residents are up in arms about traffic generally. (If you have a spluttering diesel keeping its interior cool outside your door, the urge to do something drastic is understandable). So if you intend to enjoy old Niagara, park your car discreetly a long way off, travel on foot or on a bicycle and avoid the weekends if you can, remembering, of course, that the theatre is usually closed on Mondays. Proposals for parking include the use of interior block spaces behind commercial frontages, which needs very careful planning to avoid conflict with adjoining residential property. However the most disturbing outcome of an arrangement, whereby developers can escape parking requirements on their land by providing cash in lieu of the required space, and now being challenged with the OMB, is the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's proposed purchase of a small parcel behind the main street including an old residence within the commercial zone. The proposal is to have the house removed, thus destroying the streetscape, particularly of the adjoining residential area to which it belongs. Is there any sense, let alone sensibility left?

But that is not all, and the decay of the old town's historic character continues despite the ACO Advisory Board's attempt to illuminate the problem with a request for review of earlier development proposals, for which it received more

than no thanks. Late last year an historic corner, the old Alma store of c.1825, was demolished after its "restoration" was indicated. Thus an important corner of old Niagara, within the area being considered as a heritage conservation district (Heaven knows when!), has been levelled and a supposed replica is to replace historic reality on the two hundredth birthday of what was once Ontario's most noteworthy collection of early buildings — *c'est la vie ou la mort, le droit ou le tort. Ontar-ari-ario* — a place to stand, but not for its early buildings so to do.

Peter John Stokes

## OAKVILLE

The Customs House on the Erchless Estate was built in 1856 and was well-known to pioneer families in Oakville as the place where they paid duty on goods coming in and out of Oakville. The front room on the main floor was the customs office, and the back room, facing Navy Street housed the offices of the first branch of the Bank of Toronto. When the bank went broke, a long line of depositors tried to get their money out. Recently, more than a century later, another long line of Oakville citizens lined up at the customs house. This time they were attending the **Christmas Kettledrum and Preview of the Customs House** which was held November 28 and 29. It was the first real chance that Oakville Historical Society members and the public had to see the interior of what will eventually become a magnificent museum and landmark in the community.

## SERVICES

### Harthill Art Associates

This firm provides photographic resource material for those engaged in the Visual Arts and the Publishing media. The formats cover both Slides and Prints, in Colour and Black and White. Kodachrome (regd') is used for 99% of the Slide Photography. Marlene Harthill is a practising Art Instructor and Alec Harthill is an Architectural Photographer with an extensive business background. They are members of the Society for Study of Architecture/Canada, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Heritage Canada, and Art Libraries Society of North America. Their address is, Harthill Art Associates, 181 St. James St., London, Ont. N6A 1W7.

## COMING EVENTS

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Toronto Region is running a one-day seminar on **Buying and Renoyating an Old Building**. Topics include: **How to carry out a survey: "What to look for in buying an older building", "Can I afford it?", "Repairing and Renovating Wood, Masonry and Paintwork", and "How to Handle Contractors and Project Managers."**

Guest speakers are Martin Weaver, Director of Education and Technical Services for Heritage Canada, and Chris Pelham, Director of Administration and Real Property for Ontario and the Atlantic Provinces.

The seminar takes place Saturday, April 25, 1981 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at OISE, 252 Bloor West. The cost is \$20. per person and anyone interested should register no later than April 10 by writing:

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario  
285 Heath Street East  
Toronto, Ont. M4T 1T3

Cheques or money orders made payable to Seminar, ACO.

For more information call Mrs. F. D. Baker, 488-3719. 299 Heath St. E., Toronto M4T 1T3.

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	Ursula Kroll	613-237-1066

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Under This Roof

Since our review of *Old Ontario Houses* our fears of the cruel interference of the publisher in cropping the illustrations has been confirmed. But our other concern that this book might have spoiled the market, by saturation as much as anything else, has proved quite erroneous. For **Under This Roof**, by Terry Boyle, (with added commentary by someone called Peter J. Stokes), published by Doubleday in 1980, deals, in a somewhat different way, with a selection of older houses in the southern part of Ontario. The author has tried to weave the stories of the people concerned with the buildings into his narrative, always a fascinating treatment of the subject. The illustrations, all by local artists, vary considerably in treatment, quality and in fidelity to the subject, artistic licence notwithstanding. Some can be considered caricatures, others distortions, while fortunately some are more faithful to the buildings

they portray such as the sketches by Gordon Couling. The sketches have been travelling to galleries and libraries across the province as a collection, an interesting concept for display and promotion. But comparison between the originals and their reproduction in the book proves how a good idea can be compromised by the economics of publishing.

#### **For Breadth of Mind**

A fascinating pocket paperback (requiring we might say almost a kangaroo pouch to contain it) was brought to our attention by Elaine Gogol of Guelph, attending our recent class in Preservation Practice at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture. This is the French Canadian publication *Encyclopédie de la Maison Québécoise, 3 siècles d'habitation* by Michel Lessard and Huguette Marquis, published in 1972 by Les Éditions de l'Homme, 1130 est, rue de la Gauchetière, Montreal, and we believe available from Agence de Distribution Populaire Inc. 955, rue Amherst, Montreal. The book, of over seven hundred pages, contains a wealth of material, a great many illustrations and even includes references up to modern times (which demonstrate a drastic change to a well-entrenched older tradition although the results in some instances, other than the "nostalgique", still with a certain regional character). If your French is a little rusty, the illustrations and their clear captions are a great help and you should be able to make your way, after a few initial bites, through Canada's other mother tongue. We took particular delight in what we think may have been a clear case of double entendre, by the placing of the title of Chapter 12 — Perspective de recherche et politique de conservation — opposite "Catherine", the portrait of a privy. Well Maude, we couldn't agree more! c'est l'humeur superbe.

P.J.S.

#### **At the Forks of the Grand**

We were delighted to read *At the Forks of the Grand 1793-1920, 20 Historical Essays on Paris, Ontario*, by Donald A. Smith with one (entitled *Newspapers and Editors*) by John Pickell, as part of our study, with students from the University of Waterloo, of an historic section of the Upper Town of that community. Illustrations for the book are by Robert Nichol, and a number of historic photographs are reproduced. This is an eminently readable local history with liberal quotations from reports of the times described which add colour and life to the text. This book

of some three hundred pages was published first in 1956, the centennial of Paris becoming a town, and a second edition published by LACAC and the Paris Library Board with the approval of the Paris Town Council; we have the second printing of 1980. It is an intriguing story of this small town, named by its founder, Hiram Capron, from the plaster of Paris beds in the vicinity. This reminds us of our well-known architect friend, William (Bill) Grierson who used to say after we had replied to a query that our birthplace was London, (obviously from the unmistakable accent, England) — "and I was born in Paris — (a long pause as that studied haughty look lifted incredulous eyebrows, then softly) — Ontario." But Bill's pride is quite justifiable on visiting this still attractive town with its fascinating site and complement of cobblestone buildings: the book further proves the point. *At the Forks of the Grand* is \$14.95, bound in cloth, and can be obtained from the Paris Public Library.

P.J.S.

### **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### **Canadian Historic Sites:**

#### **Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History**

#### **23 Blockhouses in Canada,, 1749-1841**

The first paper is a preliminary study of blockhouses in Canada for the period 1749-1841. The second paper deals with the period between the Conquest and Confederation, when Gaspé faced three major obstacles: considerable government neglect because of the district's remote location and rugged terrain which impeded communication; economic and cultural isolation due to its fishing-based society; and the lack of community feeling among Gaspésians due to the diverse origins of the population and the poor communication system within Gaspé itself.

\$10.00 - Outside Canada \$12.00

#### **24 Second Empire Style in Canadian Architecture**

by Christina Cameron and Janet Wright

The Second Empire architectural style, most easily recognized by its mansard or broken roof and its rich sculptural ornamentation, was used in major public and institutional buildings erected in Canada during the 1870s and 1880s.

\$10.00 - Outside Canada \$12.00

## **25 Gothic Revival in Canadian Architecture**

by Mathilde Brosseau

This study deals with the evolution of Gothic Revival in Canadian Architecture. It recalls the origins of the style, marks its arrival in the country, and traces its four mutations ranging over the greater part of the 19th century and even into the first decades of the 20th century..

\$10.00 - Outside Canada \$12.00

Send money order or cheque to the Receiver of Canada and addressed to the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A 0S9.

## **The Sash Canada Wore**

University of Toronto Press  
Cecil J. Houston and William J. Smyth

This book emphasizes the convivial and social functions of local Orange lodges in Canadian communities. It covers the period 1800 to the present and is national in scope. It is an invaluable reference work for those interested in the heritage represented by Orangemen, Orangewomen, their families, neighbours and friends.

## **Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950**

Research and manuscript preparation are continuing on a Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada for the period 1800 - 1950. Begun in 1976, it is expected that this work will be ready

for publication in late 1983. The work is being edited and compiled by Robert G. Hill, an honours graduate of the School of Architecture at the University of Toronto (1972), and at present a

## **Request**

We have had a request from graduate student Scott Little, 13 Eby St. N., Kitchener, Ont., asking for photographs of store fronts in construction on main streets in small towns before 1900, showing early construction methods. He is also looking for early catalogues published by iron foundries both in the U.S. and in Canada, which retail either complete iron or steel sheet store-fronts or cast iron decorated lintels and cornices. If you can help, please send your replies direct to Scott Little.



We are receiving requests by mail for copies of ACORN, and also requests to be put on our subscription list. These letters have been answered stating that ACORN is not for sale and suggesting that the writers join the nearest ACO branch and receive three copies a year.



We are always glad to receive pictures which accompany articles. If you wish these pictures returned, please send a stamped, addressed envelope. Ed.

Please send any change of address to your branch secretary and also to Mrs. Margaret Wulff, A.C.O., 191 College Street, Toronto, M5T 1P7. In this way it can be put on the master mailing list.

**ACO's Address: 191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P7**

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